



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW REACHES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH 18 INTERNET PAYDAY LENDERS AND SUES 14 INTERNET PAYDAY LENDERS TO ENFORCE INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENAS AND TO ENJOIN USURIOUS LENDING ACTIVITIES

Attorney General McGraw filed suit today in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, Charleston, West Virginia, to enforce investigative subpoenas against 14 Internet payday lenders and to enjoin their usurious lending activities in West Virginia. McGraw also announced that his office has reached formal settlement agreements with 18 other Internet payday lenders in which they promised to permanently discontinue their payday loans here and to refund all unlawful fees and charges collected from West Virginia consumers. The latter agreement will result in tens of thousands of refunds and canceled debts for hundreds of West Virginia consumers.

The 14 Internet lenders sued by McGraw today made "payday loans" to consumers in their homes via interactive web sites and have claimed that states, including West Virginia, cannot regulate their lending activities. "Payday loans" are short-term loans or cash advances, typically for 14 days, secured by a postdated check or by an agreement authorizing an electronic debit for the full loan amount plus interest from the consumer's account.

The companies McGraw sued deposit the loans electronically into consumers' accounts and require payment of interest with Annual Percent Rates ("APR") ranging from 600 to 800 APR, more than 44 times greater than the maximum allowable rate (18 APR) for consumer loans in West Virginia.

The companies sued by McGraw's office include the following:

Apple Fast Cash Personal Loans - Wilmington, DE

Cash Advance Network, Inc. - Carson City, NV

Cash Advance USA - Miami, FL

Cash Advance Marketing d/b/a Cash Back Values - Carson City, NV

Cash Net - Salt Lake City, UT

American Interweb Marketing d/b/a CASHRebateOnLine.com
Carson City, NV

Leads Global, Inc. d/b/a Cash Today Limited and d/b/a Cash2day4you.com - Reno, NV

GECC d/b/a Cashdirectnow.com - Rapid City, SD

Americash Hotline d/b/a Direct CashExpress - Wilmington, DE

Magnum Cash Advance, Inc. - Wilmington, DE

Ambassador Financial Services d/b/a Nationwide Cash - Espanola, MN

PayDay OK d/b/a PayDay Select - Ruidiso, NM

Quik Payday.com Financial Solutions - Logan, UT

USA Cash Center - Rapid City, SD

The companies that have signed formal settlement agreements with Attorney General McGraw's office include:

AnyDay Cash.com of Holiday, UT;
Checkexpress.com d/b/a Paydayloantoday.com of Las Vegas, NV;
CNC Funding of Euless, TX
Elite Cash Advance of Salt Lake City, UT
FSM Processing, Inc. of Las Vegas, NV
Get Cash 911.com of San Diego, CA
PayDay Advance Plus, Inc. of Los Angeles, CA
Sordi, Inc. d/b/a Checks for Cash of Rockford, IL
Star Light Financial of Del Ray Beach, FL
VIP Cash of Las Vegas, NV

At least eight other companies have furnished written confirmation that they will sign similar formal agreements with the Attorney General.

Attorney General McGraw stated, "Last year we launched a major initiative to combat companies that were using the Internet to circumvent the laws of West Virginia intended to protect consumers from usurious loans. Today, we have sent a message that loans made to West Virginia consumers over the Internet must comply with our laws. We will take whatever legal action is necessary to protect our consumers from Internet predators."

Any persons wishing to file a complaint about a consumer matter or to alert the Attorney General about unfair or deceptive practices may do so by calling the Consumer Protection Hot Line, 1-800-368-8808, or by downloading a complaint form from this site.

To download and print a complaint form, please click on the **General Consumer Complaint Form** link at the top of this page.

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